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EPA Gold King Mine Internal Review Team Charge

The EPA Gold King Mine Internal Review Team (Team) is charged with conducting an internal review of the August 5, 2015, release of approximately 3,000,000 gallons of mine wastewater from the Gold King Mine near Silverton, CO. This review will entail developing a detailed, chronological description of events as well as identifying potential factors contributing to the release. The review may include recommendations that regions may apply to ongoing and planned site assessments, investigations, and construction or removal projects. The review will include:

- A visit, during the week of August 16, 2015, to the Gold King Mine site to observe post-August 5 site release conditions.
- Interviews with the on-site EPA On-Scene Coordinator and other appropriate EPA staff, appropriate contractor representative(s) (e.g., Emergency Response and Rapid Services [ERRS], Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team [START] contractor), and others, e.g., State, other Federal agency/departmental personnel, as appropriate, to document their recollections of the event. Interviews shall not interrupt response.
- Interviews to be conducted using guidelines to be included in a briefing from the Office of the General Counsel.
- Review of pertinent site documentation, (e.g., work plan, schedule, quality assurance response form, other pertinent technical/engineering/contractual documents/any photographic records) to identify potential factors contributing to the release.
- Potential coordination with the subsequent external review being conducted by the US Department of Interior/Bureau of Reclamation and US Army Corps of Engineers thereby minimizing the impact to response operations.
- Any recommendations to implement at similar sites, both ongoing and new, based on the results of the Team's review.

A senior manager from OSRTI will be identified to facilitate the identification of individuals to be interviewed, agencies to engage, etc. The Team will develop a preliminary report addressing the information above and deliver it electronically to the OSWER Assistant Administrator by Monday, August 24, 2015. If necessary, the team may also indicate if additional gaps need to be filled, and the timeframe it would take to fill those gaps.